

January 9, 2006

Dear Certified Dealers,

Enclosed please find:

- A 2006/2007 certification application form;
- A 2006/2007 vehicle inspection application form;
- Wet storage application requirements;
- Bulk tagging permit requirements
- A page of additional information

You must submit the following with your application, if it is applicable:

- If you have had any plumbing changed, installed (new) or moved, please include a copy of the plumbing inspectors report.
- If you have had your well water tested by a lab other than DMR lab, please forward a copy of the results.
- If you have a Wet Storage permit and would like to renew it for 2006/2007, please send in a draft wet storage SOP, and all necessary documentation.
- If you have a Bulk Tagging Permit and would like to renew it for 2006/2007, please send in a draft bulk tagging plan.
 - **Reminder: please include the names and license numbers of the harvesters that will be covered by your Bulk Tagging Permit. Please sign the plan.**

Certification inspections can begin in February. Please send this information in as soon as possible. Inspections for certification will only occur if you send in your application(s). **Please send applications to the DMR address on the letterhead, and address it to my attention.**

***** Please be sure to put your certification number on any faxed or mailed correspondence sent to the office. Doing so will help with dealer identification.**

For questions about HACCP classes, please contact Steve Giguere or Dana Finnamore of ME Dept. of Agriculture at 207-287-6319. You may also take the online course at: <http://seafoodhaccp.cornell.edu/>.

Our regional FDA Shellfish Specialist is Mr. Peter Koufopoulos. He can be reached at the FDA Stoneham, MA office at (781) 596-7780.

The website for the **Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC)** is www.issc.org where you can find a lot of pertinent information and the new 2003 Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish. The Guide is available on FDA's web site through the following link, [National Shellfish Sanitation Program \(NSSP\) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish: 2003 Revision](#). The Annual ISSC meeting was held in Mobile, AL in August 2005. The next conference will be held in 2007 with the location to be announced at a later date. As always, we encourage you to participate in any way possible.

It is a requirement in your HACCP monitoring to verify that you are buying from certified dealers and the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shipper's List (ICSSL) is no longer published and mailed to you monthly. The FDA maintains the ICSSL online at <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~ear/shellfis.html>. There is an almost real-time list there; copies of older lists and a place to subscribe for a list serve.

We currently maintain our own on-line shippers list. The list is practically real-time and will help dealers who are required to verify information under the HACCP regulations. The list is used by dealers, retail markets and restaurants in Maine, in other states and even by establishments in Canada. You can find this list at http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public_health/shellfishdealers.htm . Additionally, we send out alerts to regulatory agencies and those dealers that we have e-mail addresses for to notify you of any short-term or mid-month cancellations/suspensions of certification.

In addition to the HTML version, the Guide is also available in PDF format to accommodate easy printing of the entire document or selected pages. To access the PDF document simply click on the "PDF" link which appears just below the title on the first page of the HTML version. Each page of the PDF version has two page number formats at the bottom. The top number is the sequential page number of the entire Guide. The bottom number shows the page number within the particular section of the Guide being viewed.

The Governor signed into effect L.D. 1449 on June 23, 2005 and it became effective on September 17, 2005. This bill made several changes to the shellfish harvesting laws as well as the retail license law. A summary of those changes is below.

1. Shellfish harvesters can only sell the shellstock they harvest to a wholesale seafood license holder certified under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, §6856. Harvesters can sell shellstock they harvest from their home as a retail sale. Harvesters CANNOT shuck shellfish.
2. Harvesters of mahogany quahogs, other quahogs and mussels (hand-raked and dragged) must tag their shellstock with a harvester's tag. Shellfish harvesters who are also certified dealers must also tag their shellfish at the time of harvest.
3. Shellfish harvesters for all species CANNOT ship product on a common carrier.
4. Retail license holders CANNOT buy shellstock from harvesters. They can only buy shellstock and shucked shellfish from a certified dealer. The change also allows the commissioner to adopt rules for retail inspection.

Please visit the Maine Legislature website for the final text of the laws at:
<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/ld.asp?ld=1449>

The Department's administration of this new law entails the initiation of an outreach and education program for affected parties. This approach included the notification of the pending change in statute which went out to the industry in July 2005 and will be followed up with outreach to inform shellfish harvesters, aquaculture growers, restaurants and seafood dealers of the steps that need to be taken in order to meet the requirements of certification within the National Shellfish Sanitation Program guidelines. Training courses will be offered in early 2006 by DMR staff to directly aid in this certification process, more information will be forwarded regarding dates and times.

In addition, pursuant to Section 14 of LD 1449 (Public Law 434), the Department is developing a tiered wholesale seafood dealer's license that will be based on the amount of seafood a dealer handles. This amendment to the original bill is a directive from the Legislature that is intended to aid in the successful implementation of this new law. We will be reporting to the Marine Resources Committee by January 13th, 2006, as requested, and will bring forward our proposed language at that time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 207-624-6570 or Bruce Chamberlain at 207-557-3557.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mason
Shellfish Program Coordinator
www.maine.gov/dmr